

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 221749

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TGEN, OCON, GR

SUBJECT: CHINA ISSUE AT ICSU GENERAL ASSEMBLY: SEPTEMBER 24-
29, 1978

1. THIS CABLE IS SENT TO INFORM EMBASSY OF ISSUE THAT MAY
ARISE DURING COMING ICSU MEETING. NO ACTION IS REQUESTED.
2. THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF SCIENTIFIC UNIONS WILL HOLD
ITS ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING AND ASSEMBLY IN ATHENS SEPTEMBER
18-29. ICSU IS A NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION, WHOSE
PARTICIPANTS ARE ASSOCIATED WITH NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF SCIENCE
THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. LIKE OTHER SUCH ORGANIZATIONS,
THE QUESTION OF CHINESE PARTICIPATION HAS BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION
FOR SEVERAL YEARS, SPECIFICALLY IN REGARD TO CONTINUED PARTICIPATION
BY TAIWAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCE. QUESTION WILL BE ON AGENDA AGAIN
THIS YEAR.

3. AMERICAN PARTICIPANTS HAVE BEEN SEEKING A SOLUTION
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WHICH WOULD ALSO PERMIT PARTICIPATION BY PRC SCIENTIFIC
ORGANIZATIONS CONSISTENT WITH PRINCIPLE OF QUOTE UNIVERSALITY
OF PARTICIPATION END QUOTE. NAS OFFICIALS HAVE BRIEFED
DEPARTMENT ON HOW U.S. PARTICIPANTS PLAN TO DEAL WITH
PROBLEM DURING ATHENS MEETING. WHILE DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS

NAS HAS THEIR PROBLEM WELL IN HAND, WE HAVE NOT ADVISED

THEM SPECIFICALLY IN DEALING WITH IT IN VIEW OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL STATUS OF ICSU ORGANIZATION. WE HAVE ALSO NOTED THAT NO USG OFFICIAL WILL BE ON NAS DELEGATION, THOUGH A CONGRESSMAN IS INCLUDED.

4. DEPARTMENT HAS SUGGESTED THAT LEADERS OF U.S. DELEGATION TO ICSU CALL ON AMBASSADOR WHILE IN ATHENS IF HE IS AVAILABLE. LEADERS ARE DR. PHILIP HANDLER, PRESIDENT OF NAS, AND DR. THOMAS MALONE, FOREIGN SECRETARY OF NAS; BOTH ARE EMINENT SCIENTISTS. WE HAVE ASKED MR. E.C. ROWAN, SECRETARY OF THE U.S. DELEGATION, TO CONTACT ECONOMIC COUNSELOR MILTON KOVNER, REGARDING THIS APPOINTMENT AFTER ARRIVAL IN ATHENS. VANCE

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